

Lowriders are a family affair

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs
Office

At first sight 15-year-old Shane Hernandez looks like an all-American teenager.

Like many boys his age the Giessen Middle-High School 10th-grader enjoys basketball, football and hanging out with his friends. But there's one hobby that sets Hernandez apart from most of his peers: Building his own lowrider bike.

"Lowriders are a typical Mexican tradition, and the entire family is very proud of him for building his own bike," said his mother Cynthia Hernandez, store manager of the Giessen Commissary. "To others that's just a little bike, but it's a traditional thing for Mexican boys and there is a lot of money involved when they go to competition."

Shane discovered his passion for lowriders at the age of 10, when the family lived in Arizona. "My older brothers Reuben, 27, and Raymon, 25, both built their own bikes. That inspired me to build my own bike," he said.

"I was glad about his decision. It's a way to teach him responsibility and the value of money," said Shane's father David Hernandez, store manager of the Hanau Commissary. "We bought him a Schwinn frame and he started working on it."

"It was a lot of work. My older brothers helped me though. We started by putting Bondo [the trademark for a variety of materials used to repair automobile bodies] on the frame, letting it dry, adding more until the frame looked the way I wanted it to look," Shane said. "When it was dry I started sanding it to shape it. I think for about one year I worked every day on the bike and it took me about two years to finish the frame."

When his family moved to Wiesbaden two years later, continuing the project ran into obstacles.

"The frame was finished, but the bike was



Photo by Alexandra Williams

The lowrider bike is Shane Hernandez' pride. It has a place of honor in his room and he makes it a habit to wipe and dust the bike on a regular basis.

not painted yet so we had to find a shop to get it done. Lowriders are basically unknown in Germany so we had to look hard, but we found this German car shop in downtown Wiesbaden. The shop owner agreed to paint it and another guy in the shop wanted to airbrush it, but they told me that the bike had to be absolutely flawless," Shane said.

He continued sanding the bike, applying

another layer of Bondo, touching up tiny holes and bringing the frame to perfection, said his father.

"Finally I could bring it to the shop. I asked them to paint it blue and have Pancho Villa airbrushed on the frame," Shane said.

Like their passion for lowriders, an affinity with the famous Mexican guerrilla is considered a family tradition, said Cynthia

Hernandez. "Shane's great-grandfather was affiliated with Pancho. He rode with him and he died with him," she said.

But painting the frame was just part of the job. "There were still many parts missing. Accessibility for those is impossible in Germany," Shane said.

Again the Hernandezes pulled together to complete the project. His parents ordered parts and pieces through the Internet and family members sent parts from the United States. "Once I had the parts it took me a week to assemble the bike," said Shane.

The finished lowrider is Shane's pride and has a special place in his room.

"The bike is not for riding. There are kids in the States who ride their lowriders, but I won't. I could, but I don't want any scratches or dents on it," said Shane. "If I lived in the States I would go to competitions, but over here I can't. I'd like to get a photo in 'Lowrider Magazine' though."

"He wanted to show his older brothers that he can also do it, and he did," said David Hernandez. "He picked it up from them. They keep asking for pictures. They are so proud of him; the entire family is proud of him."

"I am glad that he picked up the family tradition. It's a good thing because it keeps the boys busy and out of trouble," Cynthia said. "They take pride in it; it's just a prideful thing. He also learned to value things and that was our intent."

"Altogether we've spent about \$2,000 on the bike, but it was worth it. It was a pleasure watching him. He was so picky about how he wanted the bike to look," said David.

One journey leads to another, and Shane already has a new project in mind. "When I get older I want to get a lowrider car," he said.

And the family tradition will continue. Shane's 6-year-old brother Nick is already waiting to build his own lowrider. "I am so proud of Shane. When I am old enough I want to build a bike just like he did," he said.

ACS calendar . . . ACS calendar . . . ACS calendar

Foreign spouse support group

The Multi Cultural Support Group meets every third Thursday of the month at ACS. The program is designed to give support and assistance to foreign born spouses. For details call Patricia Harper at mil 343-7618.

NOW workshop

Army Community Service hosts a Newcomers Orientation and Welcome July 15-16 in Giessen. The two-day workshop provides tools to get you out and about in Germany and make this the best tour ever. The first day highlights the various community agencies and summarizes what they offer. The second day

includes a surrounding area tour, visiting spots of interest and providing a tool to travel in Germany at leisure. Free child care is provided when registered in advance. Call Patricia Harper in Giessen at mil 343-6910 or Christina Daily in Friedberg at mil 324-3789.

Re-entry workshop

The ACS "homeward bound" workshop helps those returning to the United States to make the transition as smoothly as possible. Addressed will be topics such as logistical, financial and psychological adjustments. For details call Patricia Harper in Giessen at mil 343-6910 or Christina Daily in Friedberg at mil 324-3789.

Financial readiness

A Money and Credit Management class takes place in Giessen from 10 a.m. to noon every second Tuesday of the month and every first Friday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Butzbach Outreach Center. A Checkbook Management class is scheduled for every second Wednesday in Giessen from 10 a.m. to noon. For details call Zachary Bonaparte at mil 343-8075.

Preparing for childbirth

A preparing for childbirth class takes place July 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Butzbach. This class provides valuable information helping

parents to prepare mentally and physically for the baby's birth.

Lunch will be provided. Community members unable to attend the class may receive information in a home or office visit. For more information call in Giessen mil 343-9311 and in Friedberg call mil 324-3421.

Soup's On, Hearts Apart at ACS

A Soups' On and Hearts Apart luncheon takes place every first Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Butzbach, every third Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Giessen and every fourth Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Friedberg.

Market Monday

The Butzbach Outreach Center hosts Market Monday every first Monday of the month taking interested community members to the local market to experience local cuisine, meet new friends and to enjoy the culture. The group meets at 9 a.m. at the Outreach Center.

Family Fun picnic

ACS Giessen hosts a Family Fun picnic July 17. Everybody is invited to join them with a brown bag, a blanket and the wackiest umbrella for a tropical picnic and an umbrella contest. For more information call mil 343-7618

Staying in touch across the miles

Families of deployed 501st FSB soldiers record Father's Day video messages to stay connected

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Master Sgt. Wallace Garcia knows how much it means to deployed soldiers to get a personal message from their loved ones.

As the rear detachment and family support noncommissioned officer in charge of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, it's one of Garcia's duties to keep all means of communication open between families. "Right now it's kind of difficult to communicate with them. They just arrived at their destination; email and phones still have to be established. I know it's hard for many families not being able to communicate at the moment," he said.

The lack of communication capabilities prompted him to get families together to send video messages to the deployed soldiers for Father's Day.

"Despite the deployment we wanted to make it a special day for all the fathers in the battalion," Garcia said. "It was also our first opportunity after the deployment to come together as one big family."

Rear detachment commander Capt. Patrick Wolf supported the idea. "He made all the arrangements. All I did was give him technical support. I had the means to get the messages recorded on tape and from that I burnt a compact disc. The soldiers can watch that disc on any computer that has media capabilities," Wolf said.

Spouses welcomed Garcia's idea, and to his surprise about 100 family members gathered in Bad Nauheim's Community Center June 3 to enjoy a potluck dinner while waiting to record their personal message.

"That was more than what we expected. I am glad to see that many families took a chance to greet their spouses," Garcia said.

Darryl Thomas, age 11, was among children eager to record a message for his father, Staff Sgt. Bryan Thomas of Company B. "I will tell my dad that I love and miss him," he said.

"And we'll tell him to come home soon," said his mother Arden.

"I came to tell my dad Spc. Elmer "Dan" Cothran of Company C that Logan and I love and miss him and that Mommy and (our dog) Pixel say hi," said 13-year-old Britany.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Retired Lt. Col. Tim Fitzgerald, spouse of a deployed 501st FSB soldier shows two fellow family members the battalion's location in Baghdad and explains why communication currently is almost nonexistent.

"He will also get a gift in the mail. We have sent him a box with goodies for Father's Day," added her 12-year old brother Logan.

"It's the first time we are going through a deployment and it's very hard. It seems like it's such a long time since he's left," Brittany said.

"I wanted to tell Dad that I drew him a picture and put it in the box that we have sent him. And I wanted to say goodbye and that I love him," said 6-year old Shania Schmidt, who came to greet her father Sgt. Sean Schmidt who serves in Company B.

"I am upset that my dad is gone. It's the first time that he is gone and it makes me nervous," said her 9-year old brother Sean. "I wanted to tell him that I love him and that we will play on his Playstation when he comes back," he said.

"I want him to come home safe and to have a nice Father's Day," said 11-year-old Shannon Schmidt.

"I want my husband to know that our unborn child, the dog and I are proud of him," said Conny Johnston, wife of Spc. Doug Johnston of Company B.

"I want to remind my husband to take care of himself while he is down there," said Tina Johnson, wife of Spc. Ronald Johnson, also of Company B.

For Marilyn Jones and her children Astrid, 11, and Darin Jr., 7, the family night provided a way of meeting other spouses. Because of special requirements for his family her husband Pfc. Darin Jones of Company B. had to spend the first year of his tour in Germany without his family.

"After this involuntary separation we just arrived from Panama and two days after our arrival my husband deployed. I hardly know people. It's hard, but we are doing fine. I want to tell Darin to come back soon because we need him," Marilyn said.

"I want to tell Dad that I am proud of him and that I love him," said Astrid.

"I will tell him 'I love you so much Daddy,'" said Darin.

"I came here to gather information and to send a message to my husband Sgt. Steven

Lalicka because it's the best way for an Army spouse to do that. I want to tell him that I love him and that I am here waiting for him for as long as it takes," said Erika Lalicka.

Raquel Koch and her daughters came to leave a message for Sgt. 1st Class Karl Koch who is currently attached to the 1st Battalion, 37th Armor. "I am sending you hugs and kisses; hurry back home," she said.

"Come back soon. I love and I miss you," said 11-year old Amanda.

"I don't feel comfortable without you," said 9-year-old Marissa.

"I am sending my father 2nd Lt. Larry Wyatt a picture of my 14-month-old sister Jade and me for Father's Day. I miss him and I want him to come back home," said 6-year-old Jake Wyatt.

"I miss him too, and I want him to come back and to be safe," said his 14-year-old brother James.

"I want to tell my dad Capt. John Meyer that we miss him and that I can't wait until he comes back him," said 10-year-old Stefan Meyer.

"Daddy, I want to be a nurse just like you," said his 6-year-old brother Colin.

"Sending videos of families is a great idea. I have not heard of my husband ever since they left Kuwait. I've not even received an email. Now he can at least see our picture. He can see we are doing fine. Since he's gone I have not received any mail from him either," said their mother Jessica.

"It's really a great idea to do videos for our husbands. It gives all the dads a chance to see their children on Father's Day," said Donna Meyer. "But it's also good for the families. It breaks up the time, and I can meet other people in the same situation."

"I am really glad that the spouses took advantage of recording a message. It was an opportunity to let our soldiers downrange know that their families are doing just fine and that we all have come together like no time before. I know it means a lot to our deployed soldiers to receive a message from home," said Garcia.

"Yet I don't want to forget the soldiers whose families have gone to the United States for vacation and did not have the opportunity to get a message from us. I would like to tell them that 'all of you are heroes. Do the mission and come home safely,'" Garcia said.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Families of deployed soldiers from the 501st FSB record video greetings for Father's Day.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight

Temporary club closures

The Capri Club in Friedberg and the Woodland Club in Giessen are temporarily closed until further notice. The Il Giardino restaurant on the Giessen Depot will be closed from July 12 to Aug. 19.

MWR summer passport

The new Summer Spectacular Passports are available at Army Community Service. Participants of any Directorate of Community Activities spectacular summer events receive stamps that qualify them for a raffle.

Mail call in Butzbach

Residents of Butzbach's Roman Way Housing may have their mail delivered to the Butzbach Outreach Center every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 2-2:30 p.m. Accountable mail cannot be delivered. To arrange for mail delivery call your community mailroom no later than noon of the day you want your mail delivered. The CMR 452 in Giessen can be reached at mil 343-6558 and CMR 453 in Friedberg can be reached at mil 324-2107.

PPPO service by appointment only

Services from the Personal Property Placement Office in Friedberg are available on an appointment basis only. Call the Giessen PPPO at mil 343-8528 or civ (0641) 402-8528.

Red Cross seeks volunteers

The American Red Cross seeks volun-

teers. Individuals interested in volunteering must attend a volunteer orientation. Classes take place every third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in Building 3, Giessen Depot, on the third floor. For information call mil 343-1760.

RCCC available

Reserve Component Career Counseling service is available on the Giessen Depot. The RCCC office is in Building 4, Room 106, and is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-5 p.m. For information call Thomas Larry at mil 343-6506.

Shuttle, auto service

The Friedberg and Giessen Auto Crafts shops provide commissary and PX shuttle service. In July both shops offer free oil change for military spouses. Car towing and repair services are also available. In July the shop in Friedberg offers cooling system inspections including hose and belt work for \$5. For prices and appointments call Auto Crafts in Friedberg at mil 3218 or in Giessen call mil 343-8182.

VA briefing, ACAP services

The next Veterans Affairs briefing takes place July 2 from 9-11 a.m. Participants learn about education benefits, home-loan guarantees, disability compensation and other VA benefits. All service members separating from active duty must receive Army Career and Alumni Program pre-separation counseling no less than 90 days before their separation. Soldiers are encouraged to attend ACAP as soon as possible and make their



Photo by Tony Adams

Young author honored

Butzbach Elementary School student Brittany Finley, age 9, author of the book "The Tales Live On" was recognized for her enriching story about what happened to Snow White after the fairy tale ended during the recent, ninth annual Young Authors Conference held in Heidelberg. Finley and other young writers had a chance to meet prestigious, contemporary literary figures such as published singer and songwriter Cynthia Todd, famous Irish storyteller Niall De Burca and comic book and newspaper publisher Peter Reynolds. "It's great that they autographed my book. I am especially thankful to my enrichment teacher Ms. (Sue) Alldafer for selecting me for this award," Finley said.

first appointment one year before their ETS or two years before retirement. Pre-separation counseling is conducted by appointment. For information call mil 343-9332.

Get crafty in Giessen

The Giessen Arts and Crafts Shop hosts a dodo bird puppets class July 22 from 3-5 p.m. Fees are \$20 and include materials. A breakfast tray mosaic workshop takes place July 8 from noon to 2 p.m. Fees are \$12 and include materials. A cross-stitching class for beginners takes place July 16 from 3-5 p.m. An intermediate class is scheduled for July 30 from 3-5 p.m. Cost is \$12 and includes materials. For more information call mil 343-6445.

Brigade run and family walk

The 284th BSB Sports Office has scheduled a 10-kilometer 1st Brigade run and a five-kilometer family fun walk for July 5 in Friedberg. Registration is open from 9-10:45 a.m. and the race starts at 11 a.m. Cost is \$20 including a T-shirt or \$15 without a shirt. Trophies are awarded to the top three in each male and female age category and overall male and female.

Fourth of July Picnic

The Butzbach military community will host a Fourth of July Picnic from 6 p.m. to midnight in Roman Way Housing. Bring a blanket; food and beverages will be available. Country band King's Kotton will perform at 7 p.m. Fireworks will be at 10:45 p.m.

Self-help class

The Self Help store on the Giessen Depot offers self-help classes every first and third

Wednesday of the month starting at 1 p.m. in Building 106. Classes are open and free to all ID card holders. Selected self-help videotapes are also available. Both stores accept partially used household cleaning products and reissues them free of charge to anyone who needs them. Hours are Monday to Friday from noon to 6 p.m. in Giessen and 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Friedberg. For information call Self-Help in Friedberg at mil 324-3169 or in Giessen at mil 343-6263.

Thrift Store opening hours

The 284th BSB Thrift Stores have changed opening hours for the summer months. The Friedberg store is open Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Butzbach store is open Wednesday and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the Giessen Thrift Store is open Thursday from noon to 5 p.m.

Getting in shape

The Miller Hall Fitness Center in Giessen hosts spin classes every Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. Cardio Kickboxing takes place every Tuesday at 5:45 p.m. in Giessen. The Butzbach Elementary School hosts step interval classes every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. All classes are free. For details call mil 343-6384.

Weekend child care

Super Saturday child care is offered June 28 at the Giessen Child Development Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 12 at the Butzbach CDC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children must be 11 years or younger and CLEOS registered. For more information call Giessen CDC at civ (0641) 402-6200 and Butzbach at civ (06033) 67922.



Photo by Paula McGuire

Kudos to creative craft staff

A warm thank you goes to Beverly Cleveland (left) and Michelle Harrell of the Giessen Crafter's Corner frame shop from the Directorate of Community Activities. Trying to help deploying soldiers to get their rank insignia on their desert combat uniforms they took a sheet, dyed it brown and then embroidered the rank insignia on the brown fabric. Bombarded with work requests both worked past duty hours, sometimes until 11 p.m. to ensure soldiers received their insignia in time. Furthermore they sewed on unit patches and made it a priority to complete framing jobs for deploying units. The ladies represent a high point in customer service going above and beyond to serve soldiers.

Kindergarten coaches lead by example

Sixth-graders assume responsibility, help youngest students achieve

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Giessen Elementary School sixth-graders got to be teachers as well as students this year. Under the supervision of physical education teacher Heide Hurd they served as PE coaches to kindergarten students.

"I had the idea about a year ago," Hurd said. "I wanted the students to learn from each other and to have some fun. Being coaches for younger students also teaches the sixth-graders responsibility."

Finding volunteers wasn't hard. "Every week I had anywhere from eight to 10 students helping me," said Hurd.

"We wanted to help Ms. Hurd because there are so many kindergartners and she is by herself," said sixth-grader William Domko. "It was fun to work with the little children and to be a role model for them."

"I coached because I wanted to be helpful with the little kids. My twin sisters attended kindergarten here at the school and I had a chance to do something with them," said Dominique Metzger.

"It's also great to watch how much fun they have when you teach them something," said Andy Birchmeier.

Being an outstanding athlete was not a prerequisite to join the team of coaches, said Hurd.

"To become a coach you have to be a good student and you have to lead them by example because you are a role model for the younger ones," said Domko. "Working with them was more than just playing with them, it's was also hard work. We taught them to play safe, have fun and exercise good sportsmanship."

Getting the younger children's attention was difficult at times, he said. "Sometimes we had to yell at them to get their attention or keep repeating what they were supposed to do."

"Especially when they were playing with something else instead of doing what they were told to do. Then we had to go up to them and take it away and tell them to pay attention," said Erich Sossamon.

"It was important that they did what we told them to do; otherwise they might have hurt themselves. It's a safety issue and we were responsible for them," Domko said. "We were not trying to be mean to them — it's more like we disciplined them without getting them mad. Most of the time they respected us though, and listened to what we said."

"Many of them thought that we were awesome," said Birchmeier.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Giessen Elementary School kindergartners and sixth-grade coaches practice football skills during physical education class.

"To the kindergartners we were adults," said Metzger. "Some of them even called me Miss. That made me feel very good."

"It was fun watching them when they tried to do something. There are things that are a lot harder for the older students and the kindergartners are doing it a lot better," Sossamon said.

The sixth-graders' dedication also won them the affection of their young charges.

"They are a lot of fun, more than adults," said 6-year-old Samantha Rodriguez. "I liked the part when they were really nice."

"The sixth-grade coaches are nicer than anything else," said fellow kindergartner Chris Brown.

"One day I will become a coach and be like them. My favorite coach was Nick because he played with me," said

Aaron Huyghue.

"I liked all the coaches," said Tyler Tibbs.

"They are so nice and a lot of fun," said John Salas.

"I wish I could be a coach again next year, but I can't because I will be going to the middle school," said Metzger.

"I am returning to the States in a few days, but I hope I can coach younger students again," said Birchmeier.

"I'd like to be a PE coach someday," said Domko. "But first I'll join the Army, retire and then become a coach — that's a family tradition."

"After coaching for one year I understand parents now much better. Now I can see why they seem to be strict sometimes or why they get upset," said Sossamon.

A whole new crew of youngsters will get to have a similar experience in September when school resumes. Hurd is planning to recruit a fresh crop of sixth-graders again after the summer break.

From the Legal Office

A quick guide on how to file damage claims

By Mary Lochhas
Friedberg Legal Center

Whether you are just arriving in country and unpacking your household goods or there is a power outage affecting your quarters, it can happen that you have to file a claim. To avoid unnecessary trips to the claims office we have put together a quick "what to do" list.

In the case of refrigerators failing and food getting spoiled, keep your purchase receipts until the food is used. In case a refrigerator fails to work and food cannot be saved you can use the receipts to make claims. Another option is to cut out the price tags, write down the items and get a third party to witness it. You may also take

photographs.

Before coming to the claims office, get a statement from the Directorate of Public Works after they test the refrigerator. To avoid such an unpleasant surprise it is important that you check your refrigerator at regular intervals. If there is anything amiss call the work reception desk at mil 343-7272.

It is also important to never use a sharp object on the freezer.

Damaged or missing household goods

Once everything arrives check delivery for damaged or missing items. When given the pink-colored DD Form 1840 by the carrier make sure you write down all of the damages

in detail as well as anything you find missing, noting the correct inventory numbers before you add your signature. You will receive three copies. Any additional loss and or damage must be fully reported on the other side of the form, DD Form 1840R, within 70 days. It is important to fill out all three copies.

When you visit the claims office bring DD Form 1840/1840R, your packer's inventory, the power of attorney, your PCS orders and your family orders and any purchase receipts and photographs you may have of items being claimed. The claims staff will assist you and, if necessary, set up an appointment for an inspection of your property.

Some people wait too long to file claims. Under the statute of limitations, you have

only two years from the date of delivery of your household goods, hold baggage and POV shipments to complete your claim. After that time your claim expires. This also applies to other claims against the government under Army Regulation 27-20. Check your paperwork now and if you have any questions about your claim call the Friedberg claims office.

To get help

For more information contact the Friedberg Legal Center or the Giessen Branch Office. The claims staff is available at both locations. To make appointments call mil 324-3864/3865 or civ (06031) 81-3864/3865.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Around the community...Around the community

Family affair

Hanau's Army Community Service will hold an evening of outdoor entertainment June 27 starting at 8:30 p.m. outside Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne featuring the Disney movie, "The Jungle Book." Bring picnic baskets, lawn chairs and blankets. Call mil 322-8965 for more information.

CPR course in Hanau

The American Red Cross will conduct a community CPR course June 28 at its office in Building 4 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. The class will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$25. Stop by the Red Cross to sign up or call Tracy Melancon at mil 322-1760, civ (06181) 88-1760 for details.

Awana Club

Children of all ages and families are invited to the Awana Club's game time June 30 from 3-5 p.m. at the football field adjacent to Pioneer Chapel. Call Lynn Stinson at civ (06181) 520 277 or Terri Petrie at (06051) 828 655.

School supplies needed

V Corps's Headquarters and Headquarters Company G-3 Operations has adopted an Iraqi middle school and will refurbish the facility with a procured grant and manpower, providing new desks and blackboards. To complete this aid project all sorts of age-appropriate school supplies are needed. Help show these Iraqi children how much you care

by donating school supplies such as paper (lined and unlined), pencils, pens, colored pencils, markers, protractors, metric rulers, compasses, etc. School supply donation drop boxes are located at Hanau Middle School, Argonner Elementary School, Pioneer and Fliegerhorst Chapels and the PX.

Backyard Bible Clubs

Backyard Bible Clubs will be held July 21-25 in each of the housing areas. If you are interested in hosting a club on your casern or helping out in any way call Lynn Stinson at civ (06181) 520 277.

Basket weaving classes

Hanau's American Sampler Crafts Shop features basket weaving classes every Sunday in July from 1-5 p.m. Visit the shop at the Wolfgang Shopping Center and check out samples. Cost is \$25. Call mil 322-8082.

Outdoor Rec trips

Hanau's Outdoor Recreation Center in Building 459 on Old Argonner Kaserne offers the following upcoming trips: **Camp Darby Jamboree** July 3-6, **Europa Park** July 4, **Berlin** July 12-13, **Centro Mall** July 19, **Black Forest and Europa Park** July 26-27, **Rolling Stones concert in Prague** July 26-28, **Chiemsee Resort** July 25-27. Call mil 322-8891 for details.

Basic German at VHS

The Hanau Volkshochschule offers be-

giner German classes June 30 through July 13. Classes meet Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost for 72 hours of instruction is €150. Sign up in person at the VHS, which is at Ulanenplatz 4, in the former Francois Kaserne just west of Yorkhof Kaserne. Call civ (06181) 923 8027 for details and directions.

ACAP events

A **Veterans Affairs briefing** will be held from 9-11 a.m. June 30 and July 29 at the Army Career and Alumni Program, Building 11 on Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau. Learn about education benefits, home loan guaranties, disability benefits and more. A **Finding a Job in Germany Seminar** will be held July 14 from 9 a.m. to noon to provide information about job opportunities with the federal government, Department of Defense contractors and private firms. Call mil 322-8356 or civ (06181) 88-8356 for information.

Flea market, crafts fair

A flea market and crafts fair will be held in conjunction with the annual Hanau Community Connection Fair Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. next to the International Club on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Anyone interested in participating in the flea market or crafts fair should call Mrs. Davenport, Hanau Arts and Crafts, at mil 322-8082, civ (06181) 88-8082 or email davenportf@hanau.army.mil.

Changes of command

Lt. Col. Samuel T. Piper III will assume

command of the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, from Lt. Col. Forrest E. Smith in a ceremony at Hanau's Campo Pond Training Area June 26 at 2 p.m. The unit recently returned from Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lt. Col. Thomas P. McKenna will assume command of the 39th Finance Battalion from Lt. Col. Jane S. Polcrack in a ceremony at the Pioneer Kaserne flagpole (or Pioneer Fitness Center in inclement weather) July 10 at 3 p.m.

Annual bazaar

The Hanau Community Spouses Club invites all local Family Readiness Groups and non-profit organizations to participate in its annual bazaar which will be held Oct. 24-26 in Building 1313 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Contact Bianca Moton at civ (0160) 910 52378 or Rose M. Buckley at civ (06181) 906 3792 to get involved.

IACS registration

All ID card and installation pass holders are reminded that they must register with the Installation Access Control System office by this fall to continue to have access privileges to U.S. military installations in Europe. Department of Defense ID card holders should register in Building 21 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Installation pass holders should register in Building 24 on Pioneer Kaserne from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Staff Sgt. Henson at mil 322-9009/8773 to make appointments for large groups or units.



Photo by Christine Kumpel

Dr. (Col.) Richard Parsons, officer in charge of the Hanau Dental Clinic, and Marcia Agosto provide dental care to Gary Helmer, 104th Area Support Group safety manager, during the clinic's annual Retiree Dental Health Day.

Retiree Dental Health Day draws crowd

The turnout was overwhelming — 125 retirees and their family members came to the Hanau Dental Clinic June 12 to receive dental care.

With a staff of 11 dentists, 25 dental assistants (including Red Cross assistants), five hygienists and three dental technicians, the Hanau Dental Clinic is the second

largest facility in Europe. It offers a range of specialty care including periodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, orthodontics and pedodontics, officials said.

The clinic is located in Building 245 on New Argonner Kaserne. Call mil 328-6520/6522 or civ (06181) 500-6520/6522 for an appointment.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



A force protection exercise at Campo Pond includes a "suicide car bomb attack." Photo left: Spc. Steven Schoenhut renders first aid to "victim" Chassity Pellegrino as firefighter Walter Stolper calms down her friend Heather Brown.

Exercise tests force protection

Officials respond to 'terrorist attack' simulation

Story and photos by Christine Kümpel
414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A car carrying explosives collided with a school bus causing major casualties June 7 at the Campo Pond Training Area.

During the simulated training exercise a driver and a passenger of a privately owned vehicle deliberately hit a bus to test reactions in the event of a terrorist attack. The training scenario called for one of the terrorists to die in the crash and the other to flee the scene.

"We learned a lot of viable lessons during the execution of the plan, which will help us to be better trained to execute a real life event," said Mason White, director of the 414th Base Support Battalion's S-2/3

office.

Dubbed "Garrison Watch 2003," the exercise tested the 414th BSB's ability to respond to a terrorist act on a U.S.-controlled installation and implement force protection measures.

Rapid response

Within a short time of the "attack" the 414th BSB Fire and Emergency Services arrived at the scene. While some of the firefighters put out the fire, others helped evacuate the bus. Almost simultaneously the MPs arrived at the scene, secured the area and performed combat lifesaving measures by carrying the students out of the bus and taking them to a safe area.

A Bundeswehr unit arrived and took over force protection control from the S-2/3 force

protection staff. Special agents from the 66th Military Intelligence Detachment and Criminal Investigation Command conducted investigations.

When members of the Quick Reaction Force, 5-7th Air Defense Artillery, arrived they immediately performed first aid measures, loaded the injured students onto a medical vehicle and rushed them to the health clinic.

Twelve Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from Hanau High School volunteered to act as "victims" during the exercise.

Exercise planners were very pleased with the lessons learned and results of the exercise especially concerning the close cooperation between the U.S. and German military forces, White said.



Spc. Dustin Wagner, 127th MP Co., helps "injured" student Mike Garcia.

When filing a moving claim

New process gives claimants choices

By Capt. Thomas Brzozowski
Hanau Legal Center

Summertime means long days in the sun, ice cream and relaxation for some people. For others it means watching nervously as large, burly men invade your home and feverishly pack everything you own into a moving van.

Army families have long been acquainted with the joys of the summer Permanent Change of Station season — cleaning, packing, clearing, moving, inprocessing — and claims.

A new Army claims policy should make the claims process a little bit sweeter and a little less bitter. In the past if a claimant had a private insurance policy that covered all or part of the loss, he or she would have to file with that private insurance company before being paid by the Army. This is no longer the case. Now even if a claimant has a private insurance policy, he does not have to file with that private insurance company before being paid by the Army if the claim was for loss or damage to personal property while being

transported or stored at government expense.

Exceptions to the policy are: ▶ For all other types of claims for loss or damage incident to service (such as theft, vandalism, loss in quarters) a claimant must file with his or her private insurance before being paid by the Army; and ▶ a claimant can never be paid by both the Army and the private insurance for the same item. Doing so is fraud and is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The obvious question is what's the difference with the new claims process?

It might make more sense to file your claim with the Army before filing with your private insurance because most insurance policies that cover goods in transportation or storage pay only for lost or destroyed items, whereas the Army covers repair costs and will usually pay for damaged items as well. So instead of filing one claim for lost or destroyed items with your private insurance and another for repair costs and damaged items with the Army, you can kill two birds with one

stone by filing a single claim with the Army. Additionally by filing with the Army you can avoid a potential hike in your private insurance rates.

There are circumstances in which filing with your private insurance first might make more sense. The Army has a set ceiling on the amount it can pay for certain items. There's a \$4,000 limit for any computer, its software and accessory equipment, for example. Your private insurance may pay you more than the Army will on some of these items. Additionally your private insurance may pay for some items the Army won't cover at all such as items purchased for a private business. And finally, shocking though it may seem, your private insurance may require less paperwork than the Army. Be sure to check out the specifics of your private insurance policy before you make a decision. In any event you now have a choice so grab an ice cream and enjoy your summer.

For more information on this or any other claims policy contact the Hanau Claims Office at mil 322-8392/8993.



Remembering JFK at Fliegerhorst

Visit at height of Cold War resonates 40 year later

By Anemone Rueger

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Many people remember President John F. Kennedy's famous declaration, "Ich bin ein Berliner," but few realize the day before he said those words, Kennedy spoke at a smaller town on the other side of Germany.

Forty years ago Wednesday, on June 25, 1963, Kennedy visited Fliegerhorst Kaserne just outside Hanau. Fifteen thousand U.S. soldiers awaited him, as did tens of thousands of enthusiastic Germans.

"Seems like we spent many, many days preparing for an event that lasted a few minutes," recalled Jim Chorazy, who served with Combat Command B of the 3rd Armored Division at Gelnhausen. The memory of those few minutes, however, has lasted for every soldier and civilian who got to see the president.

Kennedy came to Germany at the height of the Cold War. Immediately after taking office in 1961 he faced the Soviet threat in Berlin. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev pushed to demilitarize West Berlin and shortly after built the Berlin Wall. Kennedy increased the U.S. military presence in Germany.

A year later American troops in Germany went on high alert when the Soviet Union positioned intermediate-range missiles in Cuba. JFK warned that the United States would use nuclear weapons if it were attacked from Cuba or if the Soviets touched Berlin.

Kennedy decided to get a first-hand look at the battle readiness of U.S. troops in Germany. The Army alone had more than 250,000 soldiers in the country, among them 18,000 3rd AD soldiers at seven bases in Hessen. Their mission was to train and to defend the Fulda Gap. In May 1963 the division got orders to prepare for and host a presidential visit to the Hanau military community.

Hanau was chosen because of its geographic location and the available logistics, said Chorazy. "Fliegerhorst had an easily accessible airfield for such a visit," he said.

In addition to 3rd AD the larger Hanau community was also home to the 37th Engineer Combat Group, numerous field artillery units, the 36th Medical Battalion and many smaller V Corps units, about 10,000 soldiers in all. Preparations for the visit involved them all along with units all over U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Force Europe.

Seven hundred combat vehicles were provided for a gigantic static display. "Most every vehicle that went there for the big day got a new paint job," said Chorazy. "Seems like someone was concerned that Kennedy might see way down the columns and find something which hadn't been painted for a while."

"When it became known that Kennedy was coming, new grass was sown on Fliegerhorst. But then it got very hot just before the visit, and the fresh grass turned brown," said Hanau resident Werner Bayer. "The Americans simply sprayed it green."



Photo courtesy of Hans-Peter Merlau

President John F. Kennedy inspects the troops at Fliegerhorst, Hanau, June 25, 1963.

Some German onlookers commented, "typical Ami style."

Paul B. Sanders, a retired colonel who volunteers at the Hanau Legal Center, was a captain in 1963 and commanded Company B of 14th Quartermaster at Hutier Kaserne. One of the company's duties as a supply unit was to bake bread for the "mess hall" and support troops with fresh bread during maneuvers. But they also had a master baker, Sgt. 1st Class Riddle, who would make birthday cakes for everyone in the unit. Before the president's visit Sanders' company was assigned an unusual mission.

"We were given the job to bake a cake in the shape of the PT 109 boat Kennedy had commanded in the Pacific," said Sanders. The order referred to the torpedo boat Kennedy commanded in 1943. A Japanese destroyer sank PT 109, but the crew was saved a couple of days later and Kennedy was celebrated as a hero by the American press.

"So Riddle baked this huge cake," Sanders said. "I remember the Secret Service came in the morning and stayed all day watching Riddle make the cake. They even checked the cake with wires." Riddle was happy to shake hands with the president and received a big thank you. "That cake made him famous in the White House and helped him land a good job in Washington, D.C., when he got out of the Army," Sanders said.

A jubilant German-American crowd greeted Kennedy when his helicopter landed punctually at 10:30 a.m. on June 25.

Raving enthusiasm

"There was raving enthusiasm, something you can't imagine today," said Bayer, who was 15 at the time. "Kennedy was a symbol for the young generation. He was our bearer of hope. He took the sympathy of the Germans by storm and won their hearts," Bayer said. Kennedy's youthful aura, which clearly set him apart from Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who had been in office since 1949, was also appealing.

"He also proved his courage during the

land in a time of danger, not for the purpose of conquest, but for the purpose of freedom."

After an inspection of a static display including tanks, missiles, engineer equipment, aircraft and helicopters, the president went to the 54th Transportation Battalion mess hall and dined with over 300 soldiers and airmen. The *Hanauer Anzeiger* newspaper of June 26, 1963, observed that the president drank from a plastic cup just like all the soldiers did, and he enjoyed it.

At 2 p.m. Kennedy left Fliegerhorst in a big black Mercedes convertible on his way to a reception in Frankfurt, accompanied by German Vice Chancellor Ludwig Erhard.

"All the 20 kilometers from Fliegerhorst to Frankfurt people were lined up at both sides of the road," said Bayer. "All who could walk were out there. It must have been hundreds of thousands, an entire generation."

Holger Lutzen of the Hanau Legal Center also has vivid memories of seeing the American president from his position on the shoulders of his father as a little boy. "I was there in Frankfurt and I clearly remember the endless crowd of people."

The euphoric atmosphere lasted several weeks. "After Germany's victory in the 1954 [soccer] World Cup Kennedy's visit was probably the biggest fest for Germans," Lutzen said.

After the visit all the roads Kennedy had traveled on from Fliegerhorst to Frankfurt were renamed Kennedy Street or Kennedy Allee. The Fliegerhorst dining facility got a new name, and soldiers serving there decades later could still see pictures of Kennedy adorning the walls.

The spectacular presidential visit also left positive side effects on Hanau Army Airfield in its wake, said Sanders. "Fliegerhorst got much needed repairs. People said, we wish the president would come more often."



Photo by Christine Kumpel

Chilling on a sunny day

Jasmin Woodin (center) passes on a waterlogged sponge from Jessica Gregory during a sponge relay during Hanau Middle School field day action June 10. Christine Avera (left) is just about to drop her sponge.